

# Marwell to be honored at gala event

By MARY LEGRAND

Mount Kisco resident Stuart Marwell has been frequenting the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester for basically most of his life. He attended activities at the club during his own youth, and, after staying in his hometown and founding a world-class business, Curtis Instruments, continued his involvement by serving on the board for many years. Mr. Marwell is now being honored for his longtime support of the local youth organization.

BGCNW will host its 20th annual Humanitarian Award Dinner on Saturday, June 7, at Lexus of Mount Kisco, with Mr. Marwell as the honoree. The dinner coincides with the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester's 75th anniversary, an occasion that spotlights the 100,000 children and teens the club has helped since 1939 and its vision of inspiring all young people to reach their full potential.

The gala will feature fundraising auctions, a plated dinner, a special tribute journal and more. Club alums, Westchester residents and other philanthropists are encouraged to attend, with sponsorship opportunities ranging up to \$50,000.

Those interested in providing a sponsorship are asked to email Jean Skanes at [jskanes@bgcnw.com](mailto:jskanes@bgcnw.com).

"The dinner will be a giant reunion for club members past and present," said Brian Skanes, executive director of the BGCNW, "and it won't just be a look back at the past 75 years but also a look ahead to the next 75."

Virtually everyone who speaks about Mr. Marwell indicates he is a very modest man, someone not particularly comfortable being honored in this way. Mr. Skanes called him "the perfect person to honor during our 75th anniversary year since he is a former member, board member for over 25 years, a major financial supporter of the club, one of the largest employers in the area, past treasurer of the board and a leader in the community."

Mr. Skanes added that Mr. Marwell came to the club frequently when he was a child "because he enjoyed the programs and staff. Because he wants to give back and help the children of today like he was at the club, he is a strong advocate and supporter."

When Mr. Marwell began attending the BGCNW in the 1960s, a deep affinity developed almost instantaneously, said Frank Matheis, Curtis Instruments' director of marketing and communications. "The 13-year-old Mount Kisco resident found the club — and its programs and mentors — positively influencing his education, extracurricular activities and relationships."

The four Marwell siblings attended the club regularly during their teenage years, and their mother, Grace Marwell, pitched in as a parent volunteer. "The club was always there for me growing up," said Mr. Marwell. "I'm passionate about this place, these people and returning the love and support it showed me. I want every child that walks through those doors to have the same meaningful experience as I did. It was life-changing."



PHOTO COURTESY CURTIS INSTRUMENTS

**Boys & Girls Club honoree Stuart Marwell of Curtis Instruments in Mount Kisco. Below, a young Stuart, at right, on the Boys & Girls Club basketball court takes a shot at the basket.**



President and CEO of Curtis Instruments, a global zero-emission electric vehicle instrumentation and control system technology company based in Mount Kisco, Mr. Marwell is also involved with numerous local nonprofits and organizations. He joined the BGCNW board in 1987.

"Stuart is a true humanitarian and an outstanding advocate of the club, and it is our privilege to honor him this year," said R. Todd Rockefeller, president of the BGCNW board of directors. The evening will also recognize past honorees, board leadership and youth of the year, Mr. Rockefeller said.

"It's humbling to be recognized by an organization like the Boys & Girls Club," said Mr. Marwell. "They have had such a tremendous impact on so many children's lives, including my own. Some of my best childhood moments were spent at the club, and I will forever be invested in it and the people it serves."

"When I talk with Stuart about business he's very passionate, but when we talk about local activities, charities, community service, he's even more passionate," said Mr. Matheis. "This is a guy who truly believes that Curtis people are expected to contribute to the community, be involved in lots of organizations. Stuart was and continues to be an integral part of Mount Kisco and the surrounding area."

A nonprofit organization established in 1939, the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester has served more than 100,000 youth and welcomed nearly 10,000 volunteers, staff and board members over the years. The club's 36,000-square-foot facility features an eight-lane pool, child care center, gymnasium, game room and two computer labs, and an additional 1,600-foot teen center facility. BGCNW serves 1,700 boys and girls ages 6 months to 18 years from more than 60 northern Westchester communities.

"The Boys & Girls Club was a wonderful place and it was very progressive," said Mr. Marwell. "For example, while not all of society was integrated, the Boys & Girls Club has always been open, with equal access to all, no matter what their race and ethnicity, as it is to this day. Any divisions of the outside world simply disappeared. No matter what your color, economic and social class, religion or ethnicity, the club unified all kids. It was a place of nurturing and support, a place where people learned to get along and enjoy being with each other, to learn from each other. Invaluable life lessons were taught, many of which have served me to this very day."

Mr. Marwell reflected on his half-century of personal connection to the Boys & Girls Club. "Back then, I was a young lad, a club member, and today I am a board member, and my connection to the club has never really changed," he said. "I not only enjoy being a part of it today, but I am immensely proud of the organization on its 75th anniversary. The Boys & Girls Club is a tremendous source of pride, joy and satisfaction to me. It will always have an important place in my heart."